



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

**State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee**

Advocacy and Customer Service Section

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Albert A. Delia, Acting Secretary

Steven Jordan, Director  
Rosemary Weaver, SCFAC Chair  
Libby Jones, Vice Chair

April 17, 2012

Dear Legislators:

NCGS 122C-171 requires the State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC) members to advise the DHHS and the General Assembly on the planning and management of the State's public mental health, intellectual developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services system.

The SCFAC is comprised of members who have a first hand knowledge of the difficulties that our consumers with Mental Health, Intellectual Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse experience every day. The sensitive issues surrounding their lives compel us to advise the DHHS and the General Assembly whenever we see their vulnerability at risk.

We appreciate the fiscal crisis facing North Carolinians and respect the enormous challenges that you face during this session. Yet, we are also mindful that legislators have been elected to represent all of their constituents, including the consumers of DHHS who cannot speak directly to you. That is the role of the SCFAC and we take this responsibility seriously.

The SCFAC, through its Budget Task Team, encourages you to be diligent in your voting in favor of maintaining the funds for critical MH/DD/SAS services to consumers. Continued budget cuts in this area of the States responsibility to its people jeopardize our vulnerable citizens' quality of life. We urge you to look for other areas where budget constraints can be adjusted rather than revisiting the same areas like the DHHS which in the past years have already sustained heavy cuts, and we urge you to ensure effective monitoring on how these monies are managed.

We are especially concerned that you maintain funding for Consumer Services. Due to ongoing system changes, we recommend you maintain current levels of funding for the DHHS in the likely event numerous MH/DD/SAS Consumers will be added to the case load of community care providers. Currently, there are consumers who are underserved, not served at all, or will be entering community settings. All of these scenarios will require LME/MCO's to have more funds available to increase the community capacity to provide these needed services in their areas and to reduce their risks of system failures.



The SCFAC, therefore, respectfully requests that this legislative body support the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services by maintaining needed funds for consumers of all ages who face mental health, intellectual developmental disabilities and substance abuse challenges.

As consumers and family members, we thank you in advance for your service to our state and for your compassionate response to these vulnerable constituents.

Sincerely,

J. Roy Moritz, M.Div., BCC  
State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee  
Budget Task Team Chair

cc:     Albert A. Delia, Acting Secretary  
          Mike Watson, Deputy Secretary  
          Beth Melcher, Assistant Secretary  
          Steve Jordan, Director, DMH/DD/SAS  
          Sharnese Ransome, Director, Government Relations  
          Julie Henry, Acting Director, Public Affairs  
          DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team

